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'HAPPYTIME MURDERS'
Get to know puppet punk Phil Philips. 15

Party like it's 1999 with your favorite stars. 20

Eagles continue title defense tune-up vs. Browns. 24

DEFIANT DON

Despite his presidential future now in question after being implicated of a federal crime by his former lawyer, President Donald Trump pushed back, maintaining he did nothing wrong. 8-13

5 THINGS TO KNOW

WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

GREGORY WAKEMAN, FEATURES REPORTER

Who knew that puppets were so consumed by sex and drugs and just living outrageously? "The Happytime Murders" finally reveals all, while showing just how hard life can be for the seemingly adorable creatures, too. Metro wanted to learn more, though. So we sat down to talk to Phil Philips, the disgraced ex-cop who leads "The Happytime Murders" alongside Melissa McCarthy, and he talked us through what it is like to be a puppet in a human world. Read more on page 15 and by visiting **metro.us.**

SECOND SPACEY SEX ASSAULT CASE REVIEWED

1 Los Angeles prosecutors said on Wednesday they were reviewing a second sexual assault case involving Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey. "A sex assault case was presented yesterday to our office by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department involving Kevin Spacey. It remains under review," Los Angeles District Attorney spokesman Greg Risling said in an emailed statement. Risling declined to give any details on the latest case. Representatives for the actor did not immediately return requests for comment on Wednesday. The District Attorney's office said in April that it was reviewing a case involving Spacey dating from 1992, involving an adult male. Spacey last October publicly acknowledged for the first time that he was gay. More than 30 men have said they were victims of unwanted sexual advances by Spacey, who became embroiled in controversy last year when actor Anthony Rapp accused him of trying to seduce him in 1986 when Rapp was 14. In October, Spacey apologized for any inappropriate conduct with Rapp but has not commented since.

IA STUDENT'S MURDERER IN US LEGALLY: ATTORNEYS

2 A 24-year-old farm worker charged with the murder of an Iowa college student who disappeared while jogging is in the country legally, contrary to the claims of prosecutors that he was an illegal immigrant, his attorneys said on Wednesday. Attorneys for Cristhian Rivera made the assertion in a motion seeking a gag order for his upcoming court proceedings and trial over the murder of 20-year-old Mollie Tibbetts, a case that has drawn extensive international news coverage. "The government is promoting the idea that Cristhian is not present in this jurisdiction legally," defense attorney Allan Richards said in the court documents, adding that such comments would prejudice his right to a fair trial. "Former leader of Iowa's educational system (The Iowa Board of Regents) Craig Lang has verified that Cristhian is in this jurisdiction legally," Richards wrote. "Cristhian has complied with his documented status since arriving in the USA as a minor." Representatives for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the claim by Rivera's attorneys.

TEKASHI69 ARRIVES FOR ARRAIGNMENT IN HOUSTON

3 Rapper Tekashi69, whose real name is Daniel Hernandez and is also known as 6ix9ine, Tekashi 6ix9ine, Tekashi 69, arrives for his arraignment on assault charges in County Criminal Court #1 at the Harris County Courthouse on Wednesday in Houston, Texas.

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HAWAII RESIDENTS BRACE FOR HURRICANE LANE

4 Hawaii residents already reeling from months of explosive eruptions from Kilauea volcano braced on Wednesday for Hurricane Lane, which was bearing down on the U.S. island chain with high winds and lashing rains and the potential to trigger flooding and landslides. Though the hurricane weakened slightly as it spun across the Pacific Ocean it remained a Category 4 storm, the second-strongest on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale of wind intensity, according to the U.S. Central Pacific Hurricane Center. "The center of Lane will track dangerously close to the islands Thursday through Saturday," the center said in an advisory. "Life-threatening impacts are likely in some areas as the hurricane makes its closest approach." Lane was expected to begin a turn toward the northwest of the island later on Wednesday, followed by a turn to the north-northwest on Thursday. Packing 155-mile per hour winds, the storm could dump as much as 20 inches of rain over parts of the archipelago, triggering major flash flooding and landslides, according to the National Weather Service.

EX-BRAZILIAN SOCCER BOSS GETS 4 YEARS IN PRISON

5 A former president of Brazil's soccer federation was sentenced on Wednesday by a U.S. judge to four years in prison after being convicted on corruption charges related to the bribery scandal at FIFA, the sport's governing body. Jose Maria Marin, 86, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Pamela Chen in Brooklyn, New York. He was also fined $1.2 million and ordered to forfeit $3.34 million. Marin, the former head of Confederação Brasileira de Futebol (CBF), was convicted on Dec. 22 by a federal jury on six conspiracy counts, including to commit racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering. He was among the first to stand trial over what U.S. prosecutors called a sprawling scheme involving payments of more than $200 million of bribes and kickbacks in exchange for marketing and broadcast rights for soccer matches. Prosecutors said Marin received several million dollars in bribes. "We are disappointed in the length of the sentence but appreciate the judge's efforts to strike a fair balance," Marin's lawyer Charles Stillman, said in an email. "Mr. Marin will pursue an appeal."

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Beloved City Hall staffer and mother Linda Rios, 37, will be mourned at a vigil Thursday and funeral in the coming days. PROVIDED

Vigil to honor City Hall staffer killed in murder-suicide

Vigil planned for beloved City Hall staffer murdered by her estranged ex, who then took his own life.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A candlelight vigil is planned Thursday afternoon in the Philadelphia City Hall courtyard for a beloved staff member at City Council whose life was lost in a tragic murder-suicide last week. Linda Rios, known as "Jeannie," 37, was murdered on Aug. 17 by her estranged spouse during an argument, who then shot himself.

Condolences have poured in mingled with sorrow and shock from friends and colleagues who remembered Linda Rios as a kind, dedicated and beloved employee in city government, who began work in City Hall as an intern and stayed there for two decades. At the time of her death, she was working as City Council Human Resources Director.

City Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell will lead a prayer during the vigil, scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. on Aug. 23 in the City Hall courtyard. Staff from Women Against Abuse, a city-funded social program that offers support to women victimized by domestic violence, will be on-hand offering resources for those affected by "intimate partner violence," the city said.

The death of Linda Rios death shocked members of city government who knew her well. Her estranged husband, Haywood Neuby, 43, is believed to have killed her before shooting himself in the head with a handgun.

Neuby was not living at Rios' home on the 4000 block of Meridian Street in Holmesburg at the time, and didn't have a key to the house.

But a babysitter who arrived on the morning of Aug. 17 to babysit for Rios and Neuby's twin 4-year-old daughters said he had entered the home, purportedly to see Rios, and instead entered into an argument. The babysitter heard gunshots and fled the house with the children to a neighbor's home, where she called police.

Authorities found Rios dead in a bedroom upstairs, shot three times, with Neuby found dead on the first floor from a gunshot wound to the head, still holding a loaded handgun.

> **"Linda Rios was more than a dedicated public servant."**
> Darrell Clarke, City Council President

Many have spoken out about domestic violence in the days since Rios' death.

"If Linda Rios-Neuby, a woman who worked with 17 of the most powerful people in Philadelphia and the mayor, suffered in silence and couldn't ask for help, where does that leave all the others?" asked Patty-Pat Kozlowski, a friend of Rios' and former City Hall staffer who is running for state representative of the 177th district, in an op-ed published in the Inquirer.

"Words cannot describe the heartbreak I feel today. Linda Rios was more than a dedicated public servant; she was a beloved colleague and friend to so many in City Council, she was a loving mother to two little girls, she was a counselor in whom everyone could confide. I am so sad and angry that she died this way," City Council President Darrell Clarke said in a statement on Friday.

Anyone suffering from domestic violence can contact the Women Against Abuse hotline at 1-866-723-3014 24/7, or if in immediate danger, is urged to call 911.

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WEEK 29: 8/20-8/26/18

ISTOCK

Philly marriages bureau finds $120K missing due to one employee

A City Hall employee allegedly skimmed cash payments for wedding licenses, state Auditor General Eugene DePasquale said.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Happy young couples in love rush down to the Philly marriages bureau in City Hall every day to hand over $90 so they can get legally hitched. It's $100 for a self-uniting or "Quaker" license. Three days after paying the fee, couples can officially join their lives in the eyes of the law.

But you can't pay cash to get your license anymore. That's because it was revealed some $122,000 in cash payments for wedding licenses went missing due to one City Hall employee.

"My team found a major flaw in the office's operation," DePasquale said in a statement announcing the report on the Philadelphia's Register of Wills and Orphan's Court. "The misuse of public funds is disheartening."

DePasquale's report found that a total of $149,195 in cash payments for marriage licenses was unaccounted for. Some $26,615 simply could not be accounted for, "because receipts were altered, manipulated or nonexistent," the state auditor general's office said.

But $122,580 was definitely missing — all of it linked to one employee, they said. That employee has not been identified publicly, but was fired after the audit was completed, and is now facing an investigation and possible criminal charges.

The Register of Wills and Clerk of Orphan's Court confirmed that the $122,580 in marriage license payments went missing from 2013 through 2017, tied to 1,394 transactions made by one employee's user ID in their system.

"The office is dismayed to have discovered that missing funds were associated with a user ID in its computer system," the office said in response to DePasquale's audit. "The user ID was assigned to one employee in our office. … Through the program that was in place at that time, this user ID manipulated receipts through a deficiency in the computer software, resulting in the missing funds. … Ultimately, our office terminated the same person."

Out of the overall $149,195 that was missing, the state lost its share of about $34,809 in revenue, DePasquale said. But he acknowledged the office cooperated with the audit and has since adjusted protocols to prevent such mishaps in the future.

"City officials fully cooperated from the moment they learned of the problem. They immediately conducted an internal investigation to confirm the audit findings and swiftly took action to revise policies and procedures and terminated an employee," DePasquale said in a statement. "What is promising is that my audit detected the missing funds and improvements were made to the system to better protect public monies. That's how audits are supposed to work."

Other missing funds were due to discrepancies including some 218 marriage license issued without any payment being recorded, 26 issued for a lower amount than was due; 87 licenses charged a greater fee than was due, and 92 receipts that were voided.

"We are requesting that a person associated with the specific user ID in question be investigated for any unlawful conduct," they said.

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Trump, White House deny wrongdoing after Cohen plea deal

The president came out swinging as usual on Twitter.

The White House pushed back forcefully on Wednesday against suggestions that a plea deal struck by President Donald Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen implicated Trump in a crime.

"As the president has said, we've stated many times, he did nothing wrong. There are no charges against him," press secretary Sarah Sanders said at a White House briefing. "Just because Michael Cohen made a plea deal doesn't mean that that implicates the president on anything."

Cohen on Tuesday pleaded guilty to eight criminal charges of tax evasion, bank fraud and campaign finance violations. He told a federal court in Manhattan that Trump directed him to arrange payments ahead of the 2016 presidential election to silence two women who said they had affairs with Trump.

The White House's position tracked what Trump had maintained throughout the course of the day. Earlier, the president lashed out at Cohen in a Twitter post by saying the campaign finance violations Cohen pleaded guilty to in federal court in New York on Tuesday were not a crime - even though prosecutors and Cohen agreed that they were. Trump made the claim without offering any evidence.

In another tweet, Trump said, "If anyone is looking for a good lawyer, I would strongly suggest that you don't retain the services of Michael Cohen."

"They weren't taken out of campaign finance. They came from me."
President Trump

At the same time, Trump on Twitter praised former campaign chairman Paul Manafort, who was convicted on Tuesday of multiple counts of fraud, as a "brave man" for not cooperating with federal authorities.

Fox News released excerpts of an interview conducted with Trump on Wednesday in which the president said he knew of the payments made by Cohen "later on" but did not elaborate.

After first denying that he knew anything about Cohen's actions, Trump earlier this year acknowledged that he reimbursed Cohen for payments he made in late 2016 to Stormy Daniels, an adult-film actress whose real name is Stephanie Clifford. Daniels has alleged she had a relationship with Trump.

The president has insisted he paid Cohen out of personal funds and that the payments were not

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intended to benefit his campaign but to resolve a personal matter.

"They weren't taken out of campaign finance. That's a big thing," Trump said in the Fox interview. "They didn't come out of the campaign; they came from me."

Trump critics have argued the case being made by the president that the payments to Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal were personal do not hold up given the timing – only weeks before the election.

"If this was a personal matter, why wasn't she paid off after the affair or in the intervening decade?" said Paul S. Ryan, the head of litigation at Common Cause. "The election was what made her story valuable."

Cohen attorney Lanny Davis said his client had information that would be of interest to Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating whether the 2016 Trump campaign conspired with Russia to influence the election. Davis set up a website to collect donations for Cohen's legal expenses.

Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer, speaking on the Senate floor on Wednesday, labeled Trump an "co-conspirator" and demanded that the confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, which is scheduled for early September, be delayed in the wake of Cohen's plea.

Trump has granted presidential pardons to conservative commentator Dinesh D'Souza and former Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio but Cohen attorney Lanny Davis said his client would not accept a presidential pardon.

"Mr. Cohen is not interested in being dirtied by a pardon from such a man," Davis told NPR.

Cohen's plea came as Manafort, who served as chairman of Trump's campaign, was found guilty on eight charges in a separate financial fraud trial in Alexandria, Virginia, stemming from a federal investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. election and possible coordination with the Trump campaign.

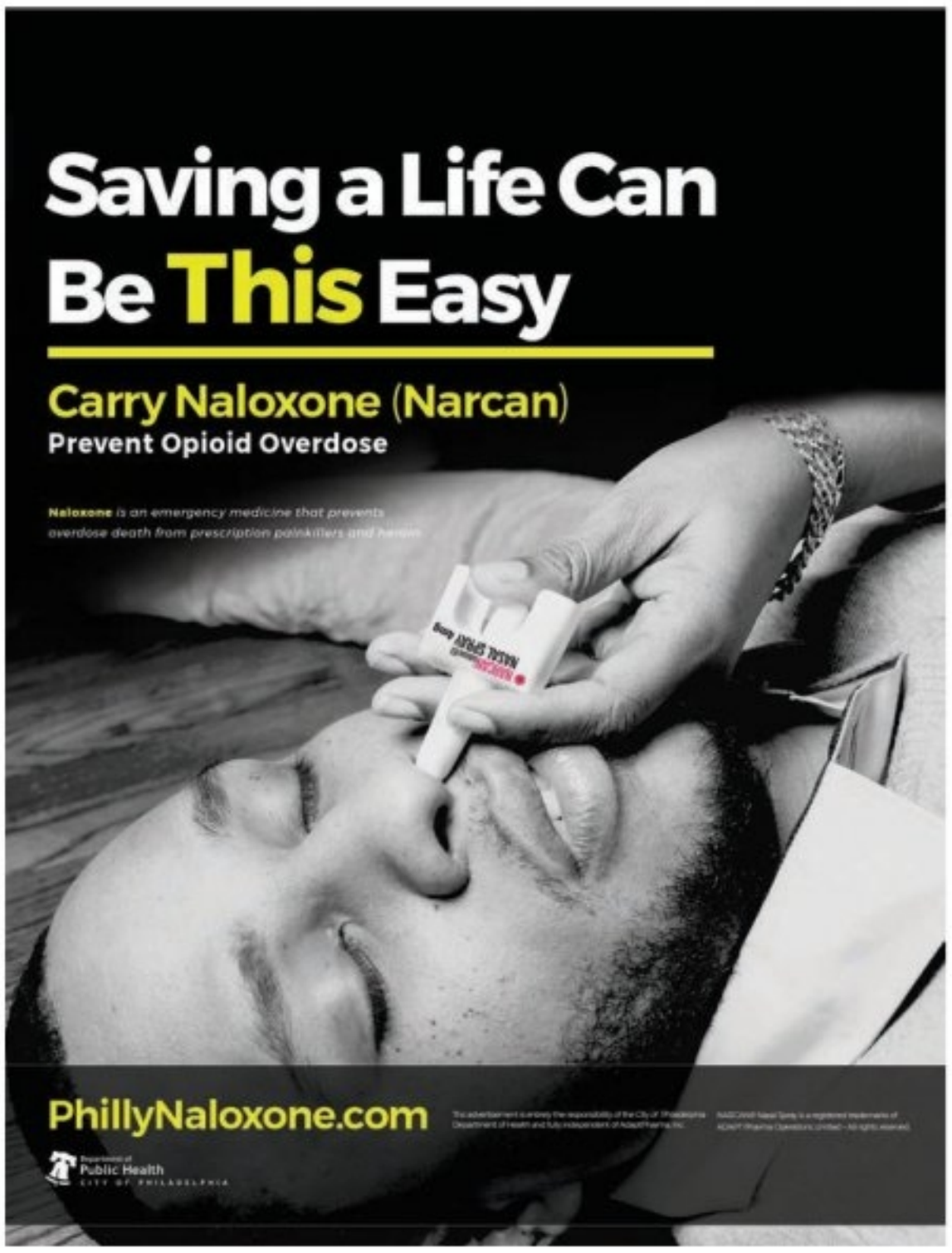
In a morning tweet, Trump said, "I feel very badly for Paul Manafort and his wonderful family. 'Justice' took a 12-year-old tax case, among other things, applied tremendous pressure on him and, unlike Michael Cohen, he refused to 'break' — make up stories in order to get a 'deal.' Such respect for a brave man!"

The Cohen and Manafort cases ratchet up political pressure on Trump and fellow Republicans ahead of November elections, in which Democrats are seeking to regain control of Congress.

The Mueller investigation has clouded Trump's presidency for more than a year and Tuesday's developments increase pressure on him personally. While Cohen did not name Trump in court on Tuesday, referring to him as "the candidate," Davis on Wednesday accused the president of being directly involved.

Cohen had "information ... regarding both knowledge of a conspiracy to corrupt American democracy by the Russians and the failure to report that knowledge to the FBI," Davis told MSNBC.

REUTERS



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THE FOREMAN FORECAST: TRUMP'S DAY OF RECKONING

ANALYSIS

TOM FOREMAN

CNN's Tom Foreman is the author of the book "My Year of Running Dangerously."

It's not just a theory anymore. It's not just an idea that can be shooed away with bitter tweets or shouted down with "witch hunt!" The Trump White House is now in actual political and legal peril.

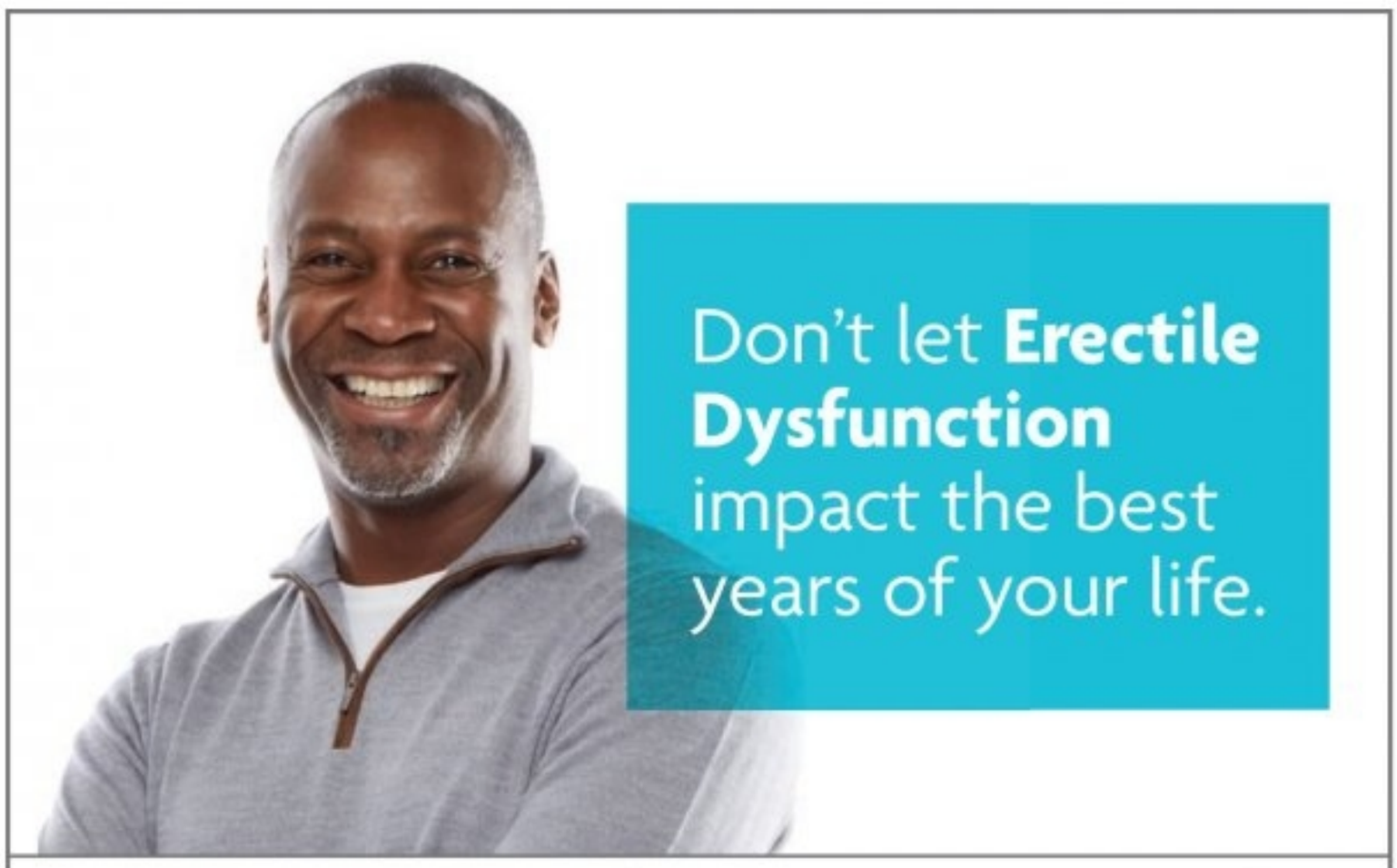
President Trump's own attorney (at least until recently) has admitted he broke the law to help protect Trump during the presidential campaign; that he paid-off women who allegedly had affairs with Trump to keep them silent. Furthermore, Michael Cohen has said under oath that Trump directed him to do it.

On the same day, Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, was convicted of tax evasion and bank fraud. Of course, Trump supporters have quickly shifted into damage control, calling Cohen a liar (oh, the irony,) and saying he can't be trusted. Asked about the Cohen claim, his press secretary repeated over and over, word for word, the president's persistent claim about himself: "He did nothing wrong, there are no charges against him."

The president is additionally howling (correctly) that the Manafort conviction has nothing to do with any supposed collusion with the Russians. But those assertions are fighting to be heard over the roar of now indisputable truths.

1) Donald Trump, who has long bragged that he hires only the best people, in fact — at least in these cases — has kept close company with convicted and admitted criminals. 2) The President of the United States is now similar to an unindicted co-conspirator in a criminal endeavor, even though that doesn't mean he'll ever be officially charged, found guilty, or exonerated. 3) The Mueller investigation has produced real results, it has real teeth, and it's really not over. Not even close.

All of this has ignited a whole new firestorm of talk here in DC about the possibility of impeachment. In political terms that remains a stretch. But if the Democrats make big gains in Congress this fall, the likelihood draws considerably closer. Like I said, it's not just a theory anymore. Because truth matters. Facts matter. And right now many of them are cutting hard against Donald Trump.



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WEEK 29: 8/20-8/26/18

Several scenarios can play out next for Manafort

More drama, for sure, can be expected from the next chapter.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

On Tuesday, President Trump's former campaign manager Paul Manafort was found guilty of eight felony charges, including bank fraud and tax fraud. The jury deadlocked on 10 other charges, so the judge declared a mistrial on those charges. But partial verdicts are allowed, so the eight convictions stand. What's next for Manafort?

A second (more dramatic) trial in a different case. In September, Manafort is scheduled to be tried on separate charges which also resulted from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation: Failing to register as a foreign agent of the Ukraine and witness tampering. Legal analysts say that case will be much more focused on the Trump campaign's potential coordination with Russia, since it will address Manafort's pro-Russia consulting work in the Ukraine, what the Trump campaign knew about it, and what was behind a pro-Russia change in the GOP platform that coincided with Manafort's tenure at the head of Trump's campaign.

A potential retrial on the 10 deadlocked charges. Prosecutors could decide to seek to try Paul Manafort on the charges that ended in mistrial. Legal experts mostly agree this is unlikely.

Manafort could cooperate with special counsel Robert Mueller. Manafort could decide to flip and provide evidence to Mueller's investigation. In exchange, Mueller could offer to drop the second trial and have Manafort's sentence reduced on the eight convictions from his first. Although Manafort didn't work with Trump as intimately as Trump's personal lawyer Michael Cohen, Manafort could provide key details: What Trump knew about the Trump Tower meeting involving a Russian lawyer proffering dirt on Hillary Clinton, the GOP platform change, and any advance notice of Russian hacking of the Democratic National Committee, for starters.

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President Trump could pardon Manafort. Trump could vacate Manafort's convictions with a presidential pardon. This would create a host of other complications: It would become a campaign issue in every Congressional midterm election this November and could become an albatross on the GOP; it would eliminate Manafort's Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination, so he could be compelled to testify before Congress; and it would not apply to any state charges that could be brought against Manafort in New York.

Manafort could appeal. Manafort has a right to appeal the convictions. Yesterday, his lawyer said he was weighing his options.

Manafort could simply be sentenced. As things stand now, Paul Manafort faces 80 years in prison for his eight current convictions. However, federal prosecutors say he will likely be sentenced to only eight to 10 years — in addition to whatever sentence could result from any convictions in the September trial. His sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 29.

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What is Michael Cohen facing with guilty plea?

It was a political one-two punch for the ages.

On Tuesday, President Trump's former campaign manager Paul Manafort was convicted on eight felony charges.

Within hours, Michael Cohen, Trump's personal lawyer/fixer, pleaded guilty to several of his own, directly implicating the president in a campaign finance violation.

Both resulted from Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russia's relationship with the Trump campaign. Manafort's potential next steps are clear. But Cohen's next move, and the circumstances behind his first, are more mysterious.

So what happens now?

GETTY IMAGES

Cohen could still cooperate with Mueller. Although unorthodox, the absence of a cooperation agreement doesn't mean Michael Cohen won't — or isn't — cooperating with Mueller's investigation. On MSNBC Tuesday night, former federal prosecutor Chuck Rosenberg theorized that Mueller's team could have orchestrated Cohen's admission as a "placeholder" before going underground until after the midterm elections. While keeping its moves discreet to avoid influencing those races, Mueller's team could then formalize a cooperation agreement with Cohen. (Cohen was technically charged by the Southern District of New York, not Mueller, but the two jurisdictions work hand-in-hand.)

He likely won't accept a pardon from President Trump. One of Michael Cohen's attorneys, Lanny Davis, said he would decline a get-out-of-jail-free card. "His answer would be no, I do not want a pardon from this man," said Davis on CNN this morning. "Under no circumstances, since he came to the judgment after Mr. Trump's election to the presidency of the United States that his suitability is a serious risk to our country. And certainly after Helsinki, creates serious questions about his loyalty to our country."

He could get 65 years in prison. As things stand right now, Michael Cohen's guilty pleas carry that maximum penalty. Because Cohen has made those pleas, there will be no trial. The judge named Dec. 12 as Cohen's sentencing date and set $500,000 bond. But any cooperation agreement could include prosecutors' request for a lighter sentence. MICHAEL MARTIN

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Pat King
Grumble Editor

HIDDEN FEES ON CONCERT TICKETS ARE MAKING ME GO BROKE!

One of my best friends and I have been "show buddies" for nearly 12 years now. If there is ever a big band rolling into town, one of us jumps online to refresh sites like Ticketmaster or Ticketfly over and over as the seconds roll down to grab the best seats available.

Prices for concert tickets are already absurd, but the real evil in all of this mess are the absurd service fees that these sites charge music fans for simply processing your order. I had an experience recently where I bought two $18 tickets and had a total of $15 in fees added on top of my total order. That's almost like buying a third ticket! I get it. It's not like I'm NOT going to go to the show. They have me where they want me and know a sucker when they see one. It's not like I haven't learned my lesson either. I just can't resist blowing all of my money on concert tickets. But does it really have to be like this?

— **Pat King,**
Metro Grumble editor

READER WRITE-INS:

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

I wish people would watch where they're walking. Put your phones down! Are they attached? That selfie of your new lipstick or hairdo or suit can wait? Are you willing to get hit by a car to show it off with a picture? Go into a corner or something! And to those who are walking their dogs while using their phones; you're even worse. Do you like putting an extra life at risk since your phone is a growth to you? Your selfie can wait. Is your life, or anyone else's, worth it, since you're fascinated with yourself?

— **Amy,** *Metro NY reader*

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The winning caption from Dan Cline, *Metro New York reader*

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Taurus Size up your current situation and make choices that will ease stress and lower your emotional angst. Sometimes it's best to give a little to get a little. Stubbornness won't solve anything.

Gemini Look for a physical outlet that will stimulate and challenge you. Test your agility, stamina and ability to think and do whatever it takes to reach your goal. Romance is in the stars.

Cancer You can make a difference if you take part in a protest or movement. Stand up for your rights, but don't step into a perilous situation. Peace will be relevant.

Leo Listen carefully. Someone will color a situation to fit his or her needs. Don't feel you must be a follower. Set boundaries and do only what you feel comfortable doing.

Virgo Participate in life. Embrace new beginnings and learn from experiences you share with people you find stimulating. You'll inspire others with your tenacity and vision.

Libra Don't limit what you can do just because someone puts demands on you or because you fear failure. If you don't succeed, pick yourself up and try again. Practice makes perfect.

Scorpio Remain focused, precise and sensible. Keeping your head down and pushing forward with your plans will bring the results you are looking for. Don't allow anyone to intervene.

Sagittarius Refuse to let someone dictate what you can do. Trust in your own assessment of whatever situation you face, and speak on your own behalf.

Capricorn Look for a unique way to use your skills to get ahead. Opportunity knocks, but it's up to you to consider what's available and the adjustments you are willing to make.

Aquarius Share your feelings regarding how someone is treating you. Face the elephant in the room and don't back down or give in. Unless progress is made, you are best off walking away.

Pisces Know ahead of time what you are doing and don't deviate from your plans just because someone else makes a last-minute change or tries to emotionally manipulate you. EUGENIA LAST

Get to know Phil Philips.
ALL PHOTOS STXFILMS

'The Happytime Murders': Phil Philips on life as a puppet

A quick and dirty chat with the "disgraced ex-cop."

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

"The Happytime Murders" is not for the faint of heart.

Packed with sex, drugs and murder, most of which involves puppets who co-exist with humans, the Melissa McCarthy- and Phil Philips-led comedy revolves around the pair trying to track down a serial killer that is murdering the cast of the 1980s television series "The Happytime Gang."

I know what you're thinking: How does a puppet pull the trigger on a gun? Do they have opposable thumbs? Aren't their hands just full of fluff?

But what you should be asking is: Who is Phil Philips? Well, we recently had the chance to interview the disgraced ex-cop who is now a private investigator, and he talked us through "The Happytime Murders," his career and life as a puppet.

Did you always want to be a police officer?
Oh, yeah. Ever since I was a little blue puppet running around the schoolyard, I knew I wanted to be a cop. I used to catch kids cutting in the lunch line and arrest them with a pair of plastic handcuffs I got out of a cereal box. But then I had to let most of them go because I never read them their Miranda rights, which I didn't even know were a thing. And also I couldn't read. But back then the idea of a puppet being an actual cop with the LAPD was absurd. They'd never let a puppet join the force before. I was the first, and it was historic. Of course, I was also then the first puppet cop thrown off the force, so really I'm a trailblazer in two ways.

Who were your biggest influences as a detective growing up?
Well since there were no actual puppet cops — as I mentioned before, I was the first, it was a pretty big deal — I had to look at TV detectives that kinda looked and acted like puppets. My favorite was Kojak. Telly Savalas totally looked like a puppet, and he was always chomping on lollipops. As you know, sugar is like crack to puppets. Literally, they're a drug for us like crack. So seeing a detective always getting a sugar fix was pretty exciting.

These puppets aren't playing around.

What's the main difference between puppets and humans?
Huh. It's probably the anatomy placement. With humans, you always know where everything is. An arm is always where an arm is supposed to be and boobs are always where boobs are supposed to be and what not. But with puppets, you never know what you're gonna get, sometimes with arms and boobs all over the place.

If you could have one human body part, what would it be?
I guess it'd be a liver. We puppets are easily addicted to sugar, it's a real problem for us. I eat two Twizzlers and next thing you know I'm on a weeklong sugar bender to Tijuana. I'd love to be able to just sit back and enjoy candy like the humans do. Maybe finally have one of those cronuts everyone is always raving about.

How many takes were needed for the sex scene?
Needed. 1. How many did I ask to do? 69. Ha. Get it? 69? It's a joke because of the sexual position. You get it, right? I have a book back at my office, I'll show you. The Puppet Sutra. It's got some pretty wild stuff in it.

"The Happytime Murders" opens in theaters Aug. 24.

A peak behind the scenes at what makes Phil tick.

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Rob Riggle explains how 'Ski Master Academy' came to be

"Ski Academy" debuts Thursday on Sony Crackle.

The comic and "Daily Show" alum's Sony Crackle series was originally just a joke.

ANDREW HUSBAND
letters@metro.us

If you tell comedian Rob Riggle that his original series, "Rob Riggle's Ski Master Academy," is "crazy," he will sincerely thank you.

As the official logline for the Sony Crackle show describes it, "celebrity patriot Rob Riggle, who is mostly known for his legendary ski master movies, has invested all of his money and reputation into an Academy celebrating America's truest art form… personal watercraft riding."

This is, of course, an exaggeration, because the real Riggle has never starred in a series of "legendary ski master movies," though it would be awesome if he had. But this kind of ridiculous and absurd comedy styling is precisely what the "Daily Show" alum does best. It's also what he was going for with "Ski Master Academy," which he claims began as a throwaway joke.

"The way it originated was a bit to to screw around with people who would always ask me what I was working on. I just got tired of telling people what I was working on, so I started telling people I was thinking about opening a jet ski academy," says Riggle. "I would say it with a very serious face, and I wouldn't wink and nod. People would always leave very confused, like they didn't know if I was really going to do that or if I was kidding. I used to get a kick out of it, but then I started wondering if I could build a show around it."

To repeat Riggle's own words about the show concept, "it seems

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What began as a joke has turned into a full-om comedy series.

so absurd and obnoxious." And yet because of this, as well as the creative team's emphasis on improvisation, "Ski Master Academy" managed to attract a wide array of comedy and acting talent. Fellow improviser Paul Scheer stars, but so does Dermot Mulroney, Eliza Coupe, David Arquette, Cheech Marin and a host of others from all sides of the entertainment spectrum.

"We picked people who we like because life's too short to do it any other way," Riggle explains. "We picked people that we thought were talented, and that would be enjoyable and fun, and who got what we were going for. We found those people and they got on board. A lot of them are personal friends from projects I've worked on before, or people who had worked with friends of mine.

"We didn't have a whole lot of money," he adds, "so we had to call in favors, and that's what I did. I called in a lot of favors. I know these people personally and I know they're funny. That's kind of how we went about selecting everyone."

Like any other television show, "Ski Master Academy" is more than what it appears to be. For along with Riggle and his fellow actors, there are writers, directors, producers, editors, camera operators, stage hands and countless others whose work is necessary to put something like this together — no matter how ridiculous it all looks.

Even so, Riggle stresses that the chief goal of the project was to have fun.

"I just want to have some fun. I want to do comedy, I want to laugh, I want to hang out with funny people, and I want to have an enjoyable day of us trying to crack each other up. That's all we did, and I think it came out all right. I'm pretty proud of it."

"Rob Riggle's Ski Master Academy" premieres Thursday on Sony Crackle.

Cheech Marin stars in the new comedy by Rob Riggle.

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Interpol maintain their cool with intense new album, 'Marauder'

Drummer Sam Fogarino talks about the band's new album and the key to their longevity.

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

Drummer Sam Fogarino (left), singer/guitarist Paul Banks (middle), and guitarist Daniel Kessler (right). JAMES MEDINA

Interpol have always maintained the right kind of cool. As one of the original bands included in New york City's return to rock in the early 2000s, they helped to usher in a new golden age of guitar-centric bands that inspired a generation of kids to wear skinny jeans, lace up Converse low-tops and pay for a blocks of Joy Division songs on their local jukeboxes.

But unlike some of their fellow alumni of that era — The Strokes and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, particularly — Interpol never saw the same intense feeding frenzy of press coverage and were allowed to create records and evolve in their own universe while maintaining a devout following On Friday, Aug. 24, the band will release their sixth record, "Marauder," on Matador records with a full-fledged world tour to follow.

Recorded by producer Dave Fridmann directly to analog tape, the new record finds the band playing with the intensity of a group cutting their first album. Songs like the first two singles "The Rover" and "Number 10" showcase the same angular postpunk guitar work that made the band so captivating while creating an urgent sense of drive.

Singer Paul Banks' stern delivery and lyrical imagery cut through as strongly as ever, while his angular jigsaw-puzzle guitar interplay with Daniel Kessler adds shape and atmosphere to each song. Behind it all is drummer Sam Fogarino and his pounding rhythms that send these new songs into the red and to dizzying heights culminating in a record that is best representation of the band as the live powerhouse they are. According to Fogarino, this just kind of happened during the writing stage of "Marauder."

"I think it just kind of happened naturally," he says, "I had been listening to not necessarily aggressive music but more stuff that was recorded more live than digital. Old soul like Diana Ross, Otis Redding and Al Jackson, who was this drummer who played with Bill Withers … it all had this aggression to it. You could pump your fist or hit the dancefloor. There was something that was just beyond 'I'm going to rip this apart'. I still wanted it to move."

Perhaps a key to the band's longevity is that they have always strived to reach different sounds on each of their records. According to Fogarino, each member of the band brings different influences to the table and as a result, it can make for much different results than were initially intended.

"Everybody in the band taps into that vein with our own personalities separately in some way," he explains, "We've each been through a lot of experiences with this band for over the past 20 years now.

"It's easy to reveal yourself … I guess when there's that duality there are dynamics created to where it doesn't get boring… What happens now and what makes the band good in what we beg or borrow from is each of us are doing that separately and then coming together.

"I would never tell the guys that I was inspired by an old Phil Collins song, but if I implement the vibe and extract something that they might not be aligned with it helps to create something completely different. Paul may be influenced by a hip-hop structure, but he's not going to start rapping in an Interpol song. That would be ridiculous."

Fogarino also believes that Interpol's resilience is not tied to that time period may have hurt them initially, but has led to their long fruitful career.

"I kept thinking 'This is a good thing, man.' To be on the fringe of a thing and not totally in the heart of it like the Strokes or other bands like that is a better thing. Being associated with that time is going to be highly perceived around the world, for better or for worse. You'll be able to go down your own path instead of going away with the time period. If you're able to transcend another decade then that's just something that excelled you to independence. That's where we got lucky."

The band will be touring extensively behind "Marauder" including Philadelphia's Union Transfer tonight and culminating in a huge hometown show at Madison Square Garden on Feb. 16 with support from younger Matador labelmates Car Seat Headrest and Snail Mail.

As for whether this new crop of guitar-centric bands gives him hope for the future, Fogarino seemed happy with the way things are going.

"It's not something that I've been paying attention to," he says. "But the fact that it could start again, or at least feels like it can, is cool. To support young bands like this that are playing so-called guitar music proves that it's just an opinion. … When you circle back, it's music. If it's good, it's not going to rely on its style or its fashionability. It will start to exist on its own merit."

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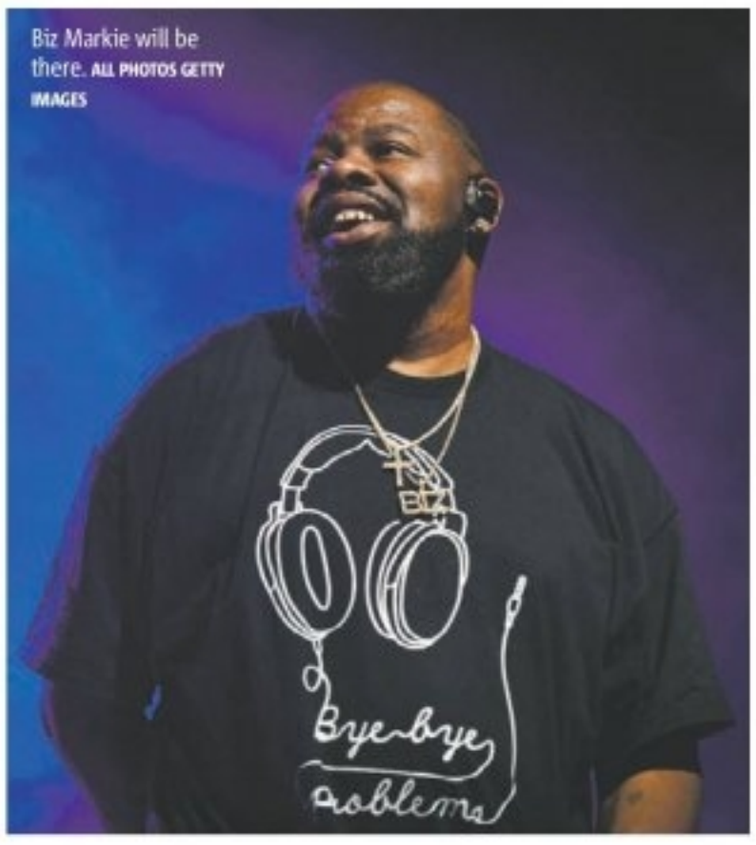


Biz Markie will be there. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Party like it's 1999 with Philly's throwback station

Real 106.1 celebrates its one-year anniversary with a big bash.

A.D. AMOROSI
letters@metro.us

It is one year after iHeartMedia Philadelphia debuted its newest station, Real 106.1, to the throwback listening public, and it's about time it had a birthday party worthy of its reputation and its playlist.

For a radio station partying hard to the sounds from the '90s, what better way to celebrate than to throw "I Love the '90s" at BB&T Pavilion on Aug. 24. This debut concert experience and Philly/Jersey radio party welcomes '90s hit makers such as Salt N Pepa with Spinderella, Coolio, Tone Loc, Rob Base and Biz Markie to the Camden stage, where they'll rap and sing old school smashes such as "Let's Talk About Sex," "Shoop," "Just a Friend," "Gangsta's Paradise" and many more. The promise of potential guest stars is also bright, as other "I Love the '90s" tour dates feature Vanilla Ice, All 4 One and Color Me Badd.

Of Real 106.1's new old radio format, Timothy "Chio" Acosta, of "Chio in the Morning" — the popular local morning show heard throughout the Philly area for 14 years and counting — has nothing but love. "Look, there are only seven to eight stations in the nation doing what we're doing," says the morning radio host. "I hope this becomes as big a format as classic rock."

Chio is on a two-minute break from his "Morning" radio show with Shila, and he's just revving up.

"Think about it. There was no classic rock stations — everyone was just playing regular rock — until somebody pointed out how all that great legendary rock stuff was being ignored," says Chio, who's hoping that the old school '90s/early 2000s format of Real 106.1 can become a

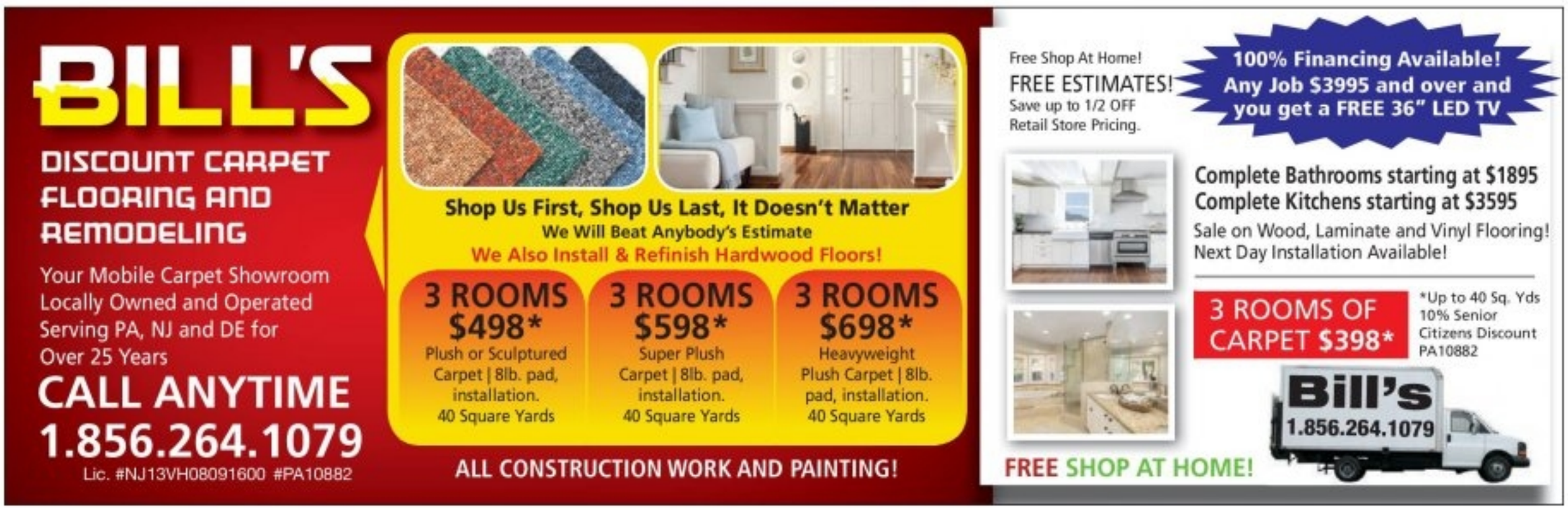
legitimate format and grow in the manner of the classic-rock-radio boom. "If we can get two stations in every city playing classic hip-hop from its golden era, we will have started something and become a part of something that is very special."

Choosing a favorite from back-in-the-day is like naming a favorite child. "Can't name just one," he says. Chio did claim to be an aficionado of West Coast style, early gangster rap. "Tupac, NWA, Dr. Dre. I love Biggie, but I just happen to like West Coast rap more than East Coast."

Is Chio trying to ignite another battle between the coasts? "I'm just keeping it real," he says with a laugh.

As for the cast of Saturday night's "I Love the '90s" showcase — the femme-empowered sound of Salt N Pepa with Spinderella, the rough rock-hop of Tone Loc and such — Chio is wildly enthusiastic.

"This is the best hip-hop of that era, feel-good music that is perfect for a live show," he says. "This music is legendary, and the listeners will want to come out, support and party."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MUSIC

GETTY

Stevie Wonder

The legendary one-man-band of R&B - really, Prince before there was a Prince – brings a jukebox's worth of soul smashes from the 60s to the 2000s to the shore.
Aug. 25-26, 8 p.m, The Borgata, 1 Borgata Way, Atlantic City, $195+, TheBorgata.com

COMEDY

Dan Soder

When you see his face, you'll recognize Dan Soder from Showtime's serious money series "Billions." Yet, when you hear his voice and dig his act, you'll recall him as the snarky guy from MTV2's "Guy Code," or as co-host of SiriusXM's "The Bonfire" with Big Jay Oakerson, or Robert Kelly's "You Know What Dude" podcast. Oh yeah...that Dan Soder.
Aug. 23-25, sets starting at 7:30 p.m., Helium Comedy Club, 2031 Sansom St., $17+, philadelphia.heliumcomedy.com

FOOD & DRINK

Philly's Classic Cook-Off presented by Budweiser

This cook-off of favored, casual Philly fare – certainly cheesesteaks and Scrapple are in there – is promised to feature many culinary twists from its participating chefs at Revolution Taco, SliCE and Mad Rex.
Aug. 23, 5:30 p.m., The Piazza, 1001 N. 2nd St. $40, livepiazza.com/events

Fonthill Castle Beer Fest

A castle in Doylestown (that town has more than a few) welcomes brewers and chefs from around the country to present 35+ craft beers and aptly tasty food pairings.
Aug. 25, 2 p.m., Fonthill Castle, 525 E. Court St., Doylestown, $25+, mercermuseum.org/event/fonthill-castle-beer-fest

MUSIC

Espers

Philadelphia's long lost psychedelic folk act of the 2000s took a break in 2009, after three gauzy albums and Eps, only to return this week for their ever reunion. Glorious stuff.
Aug. 24, 8:30 p.m., Union Transfer, 1026 Spring Garden St. $25+, utphilly.com

Nick Cannon Presents Wild N' Out Live

The man who created the 13 year old MTV-based mix of improvisational sketch comedy, rappers and game playing with a social media twist, brings it all to the stage of the Wells Fargo.
Aug. 23, 7 p.m., Wells Fargo Center, 3601 S. Broad St. $31+, NickCannonWildnOutLive.com

Luann de Lesseps' #CountessAndFriends

The Real Housewives of New York's hostess with the moistest tells stories of her wild life – past and present – while singing old songs and new, with lyrics she's penned.
Aug. 24, 9 p.m, The Borgata, 1 Borgata Way, Atlantic City, $55+, TheBorgata.com

Jeff Lynne's ELO

Expect lots of violin strings, Beatles-ish pop and a large spaceship hanging over the proceedings for this electric light orchestra show.
Aug. 24, 8 p.m., Wells Fargo Center, 3601 S. Broad St., WellsFargoCenterPhilly.com

FILM

"Papillon"

The beardo motorcycle guy from "Sons of Anarchy" (Charlie Hunnam) joins forces with the Freddy Mercury dude from "Mr. Robot" (Remi Malek) for a remake of a Steve McQueen/Dustin Hoffman prison escape film. Fun.
Opens Aug. 24, Ritz Five, 214 Walnut St. prices vary, landmarktheatres.com/philadelphia/ritz-five

FAMILY

Citadel Country Spirit USA in the Brandywine Valley

Country cousins such as Toby Keith, Brad Paisley, Jake Owen and Alabama may appear on stage, but this new three-day festival is geared toward gathering up mom, dad and the kids and enjoying the fruits and sights of the Valley's lush greenery.
Aug. 24-26, noon, 5 Nantmeal Road, Glenmoore, $89+, countryspiritusa.com

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On August 29th 2018 11:05 AM, Storage Sense will hold a public auction at www.storageauctions.com, Bidding will start August 16th and end August 29th, 2018 11:05 AM. Items will be sold to the highest bidder in cash.

The following units contain household and/or personal goods:

Darrell Scott 2347, Mayee Gabriel 2597, Jill Irving 1076
Sonya Gaskins 2360, Aleta Blacken 2130, April Liggins 2228
Shirley Little 2040, Pamela Kareen Banks 2459, Avis McGhee 2210

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Pennsylvania Self-Service Storage Facility Act, **Prime Storage – 62nd St located at 2231 62nd St Philadelphia, PA 19142** intends to hold an auction of the goods stored in the following units in default for non-payment of rent. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.StorageStuff.bid ENDING on **8/30/18** at 12pm. Unless otherwise stated the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings, boxes, misc.

#105 John W Alexander AKA John Alexander,
#720 John W Alexander AKA John Alexander

All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply; CASH ONLY. Contact manager at **215-729-8885** or www.StorageStuff.bid for details.

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#419 Carol Perrin AKA Carolyn Perrin, #2009 Sheri Brown

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To satisfy the owner's storage lien, PS Orange Co. Inc. will sell at public lien sale on **August 28th and 29th 2018,** the personal property in the below-listed occupants' leased spaces, which may include but are not limited to: household and personal items, office and other equipment. The public sale of these items will begin at 10:00 AM and continue until all units are sold.

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08131, 610 Old York Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046, (215) 253-6196 – 8/28/18 @ 10am

1118 - Ludolph, Carol; 1184 - Francois, Sheila; 1270 - Hamilton J.R, Ben; 1332 - Hall, Wanda; 3002 - Little, Tasha; 4012- Cunningham, Donna

PUBLIC STORAGE # 23216, 6225 Oxford Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111, (215) 253-6093 – 8/28/18 @ 11am

A120 - Atkinson, William; A213 - Reynolds, Mason; A220 - Valdez, David; A222 - Holmes, Tasha; A239 - Cody, James; A324 - Murphy, Lashanda; A334 - Crawford, Michael; A404- Murray, Christopher; A420 - Harris, Renee; A512 - Santiago, Veronica; A540 - Allen, Phillip; A622 - Albert, Wezlert; A636 - Lee, Hampton; A879 - Mosley, Jonathan; B1110 - Dailey, Justin; B1308 - Haynes, Sharon; B1509 - Prophet, Kenneth; B1715 - Clayton, Dellaresse; B1854 - Hilton, Tamika; C2126 - Burnett, Douglas; C2127 - Mcnair, Andre; C2302 - Nixon, Lynnise; C2511 - Kennerly, Amin; C2608 - Joyner, Esther; C2904 - Williams, Tristan

PUBLIC STORAGE # 29145, 2190 Wheatsheaf Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19137, (215) 309-8042 – 8/28/18 @ 12pm

A045 - Birton, Shaun; A062 - Grant, Lynise; A068 - Dail, Jeannean; A112 - Llewellyn, Raymond; A172 - Dabney, Lois; B002 - Serrano, Daniel; B019 - Alejandro, Rocky; B103 - Thompson, Charles; B144 - Tozzi, Tara; B163 - Holloway, Yvonne; C007 - Riebow, Kristy; D024 - Connell, Jillian; E020 - Solter, Geoffrey; E047 - European Master LLC Wojnarowicz, Zenon; E072 - Terry-Fall, Amanda; E126 - Velez, Xiomara; P013 - Briggs, Ernest

PUBLIC STORAGE # 24417, 6301 Tacony Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135, (215) 309-8025 – 8/28/18 @ 1pm

A038 - Cwikla, Paul; B128 - Asid, Nabih; B154 - Purnell, Stephen; B161 - Sorg, Ethel; B205 - Stead, Andrew; C224 - Rodriguez, Erika; C234 - Gabor, Leslie; C306 - White, Natisha; C313 - Rivera, Leslie; D362 - Alston, Justin; D380 - Turner, Andrew; D405 - Brennan, Ashley; D409 - Smith, Gloria; D412 - Gasper, Dashana

PUBLIC STORAGE # 25765, 2345 Castor Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134, (215) 600-1197 – 8/29/18 @ 10am

1045 - Hunter, Lori; 1079 - Tamba, Samuteh; 1084 - Guzman, Jose; 1167 - Feliciano, Natasha; 1250 - Wilkins, Aarine; 1253 - Ross, Dana; 2030 - Booker, Harry; 2214 - Hall, Eugene; 2231 - Maldonado, Maria; 2236 - Jackson, Terri; 2244 - Nixon, Akeem; 2245 - Parker, Hakimah; 2289 - Collazo, Maria; 2303 - Russell, Omega; 2353 - Lee, Marvin; 3048 - Sanchez, Richard; 3082 - Gacutan, Dawn; 3106 - Fullard, Dajuan; 3132 - Grier, Irving; 3229 - Hightower, Lisa; 3263 - Porter, Donna; 3333 - Foreman, Carl; 4045 - Rivera, Jose

PUBLIC STORAGE # 08128, 7000 Lindbergh Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19153, (215) 309-8051 – 8/29/18 @ 12pm

0057 - Geleplay, Jorgen; 0075 - MASON, EDEN; 0085 - Boykin, Lisa; 0113 - Davis, Raheem; 0162 - Taylor, Yolanda; 0170 - Lamax, Jeannette; 0199 - West Jr, Kenneth; 0227 - McBride, Renee; 0229 - Miller, Angel; 0235 - Boswell, Anita; 0236 - DICKHONER, RICHARD; 0265 - Hill, Paul; 0269 - Garner, Chanell; 0337 - Abdullah, Shakirah; 0340 - Constino, Joesph; 0426 - Shaw, Keisha; 0428 - Raines, Michelle; 0476 - Hamilton, Mona; 0551 - Alexander, Alea; 0566 - Scott, Melanie; 0576 - Brooks, Erica; 0819 - Williams, Hiram; 0832 - Mahan, Sonnia; 0833 - Sirleaf, James; 0836 - Hill, Thomasina; 0858 - Williams, Jamie; 0915 - Howard, Marsha; 0928 - Collick, James; 0932 - David, Kiya; 0937 - Cauley, Indiah; 0963 - Briggs, Tiffany; 1031 - BRINSON, TIMOTHY; 1079 - Ayres, Janet; 8014 - HUDSON, MICHELE; 9026 - Frederic David

Public sale terms, rules, and regulations will be made available prior to the sale. All sales are subject to cancellation. We reserve the right to refuse any bid. Payment must be in cash or credit card-no checks. Buyers must secure the units with their own personal locks. To claim tax-exempt status, original RESALE certificates for each space purchased is required. By PS Orangeco, Inc., 701 Western Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. (818) 244-8080.

TRAVEL

The world's largest Legoland is coming to upstate New York in Spring 2020. ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF MERLIN ENTERTAINMENTS

More Legoland than ever before

The Northeast is getting the world's largest Legoland — here's everything you need to know.

EVA KIS
eva.kis@metro.us

The Northeast hasn't had a new theme park in decades, but all that will change with the arrival of Legoland New York in spring 2020.

Located in Goshen — about 60 miles northwest of New York City — the $350 million theme park will be the largest of Merlin Entertainments' nine Legoland parks all over the world, with eight playlands spread over 150 acres featuring family-friendly rides, larger-than-life Lego sculptures and live performances.

A trip Legoland New York is about two hours by car from the heart of the city. There will also be direct bus via ShortLine Coach USA from the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

The park will be seasonal, open from April until November. Admission prices have not been announced.

Legoland New York is meant for a younger audience, specifically for families with kids 12 and under. "For those who may only be familiar with our indoor Legoland Discovery Centers, a Legoland Park is on a different scale altogether," says Legoland rep Matt Besterman. "This 150-acre theme park is a multiday experience, with more than 50 rides, shows and attractions, all designed for kids ages 2-12 and their families."

Eight areas themed to iconic Lego sets will make up the park. The site will be spread over 150 acres, but the total area of Legoland spans 500 acres.

"We really want our guests to feel like they're in a park within a park," says Julie Estrada, head of PR for North America at Merlin Entertainments.

Here are the eight lands that make up Legoland New York:

The Dragon Coaster will be a kid-friendly thrill.

The Factory: Your visit begins by building the Lego world. The all-new Great Lego Adventure ride will take visitors through the manufacturing process as if they were a Lego Minifigure.

Bricktopia: Described as "the land with no rules," here's where you'll get to join Master Builders to make your own Lego creations. The Imagination Celebration ride is Lego's take on the spinning teacups, or get on the Stepping Tones to make your own soundtrack.

Ninjago World: Enter the Training Camp playground to start mastering the art of Spinjitzu, then help defeat the Great Devourer on Ninjago: The Ride, a 4D adventure.

Heartlake City: Meet up with your Lego Friends on the outdoor stage, then take a ride in a balloon over Pinefall Woods or a turn on the carousel. This is also where you'll find Legoland's signature Granny's Apple Fries.

Knights' Kingdom: Step into a life-size Lego Castle with knights, princesses, wizards and a kid-friendly Dragon Coaster.

Lego City: Learn to be a firefighter at Rescue Academy or hone your street skills at Lego Driving School, plus restaurants, and theater and much more.

Pirate Shores: Hope you like life at sea because there are two boat rides in this pirate-themed land: the Rogue Wave Riders where you do battle with water cannons and Anchors Aweigh, a giant ship that swings and spins.

Miniland: Feel like a giant in the land of the Minifigures! Walk among a massive interactive display of attractions from all over the country gathered in one place, with interactive features and moving parts, even a working subway! (Hold your jokes, please.)

FANTASY FOOTBALL DRAFT ADVICE

OPINION

BILL DUBIEL

Bill Dubiel is a fantasy football expert at Rotoballer.com and Metro.us

Joe Mixon is still very much an RB2. GETTY IMAGES

Welcome back fantasy football fans! We're drawing ever closer to Week 1, and it's time to start getting ready to chase another championship. Don't forget to check out Rotoballer.com for all of the tools you need to get the edge on your league mates.

Tate top dog in Lions den

Golden Tate has quietly been one of the league's top wide outs for nearly half a decade, and his current fifth-round ADP doesn't exactly reflect that. As the top volume target in an underappreciated offense, Tate has shined with 1,000-yard campaigns in three of the last four seasons, notching at least 90 receptions in each of the last four. He's averaged just about five touchdowns in that time frame as well, and while that number certainly doesn't scream "elite," you're not looking for elite at that point in your draft. Tate's consistency is tough to find, and with all of the major variables still in place (most specifically Matthew Stafford remaining in his prime), there is no reason to expect a significant drop-off from Tate in 2018. Being able to rely on a receiver for eight to 10 targets and six to seven catches a game week-in and week-out is something that should not be dismissed casually, and is a reason Tate should be circled on your draft board heading into this season.

Opportunity for Crabtree

Michael Crabtree is now in Baltimore after a successful stint in Oakland, and he should be able to return value on his current seventh-round ADP with his new team. Crabtree is coming off back-to-back-to-back seasons of eight or more touchdowns, and he spent much of that time as the theoretical No. 2 in the Oakland offense (Amari Cooper being the de facto No. 1). Crabtree is now the unquestioned top receiver for Baltimore, with only the oft-injured John Brown any real threat to that title. I fully expect Crabtree to be able to replicate his touchdown production from recent years, and he should be able to take a big step forward in the volume category as well. If he's able to see at least 130 targets this season (a number he should hit with ease), Crabtree should be a nice mid-range WR2 for the year, and makes for a rock-solid value pick in the sixth or seventh round.

What to make of Mixon?

Joe Mixon is undoubtedly talented. The 22-year-old certainly impressed in his rookie season last year, which was highlighted by his 165-yard outburst in Week 4 against the Browns. In that game, Mixon received 23 carries and hauled in three passes for 51 yards — and never saw that workload again. Unfortunately for Mixon, the Bengals remain committed to the dynamic Giovani Bernard as a major player in the offense, and deservedly so. Bernard is a capable dual-threat running back who shines in the passing game, and he clearly has the trust of Andy Dalton. While Jeremy Hill is no longer in the mix to take carries away from Mixon, Bernard's presence simply can't be ignored. Mixon will definitely make for a fine RB2 most weeks, but his current ADP doesn't come close to matching the output he's going to produce — he's currently going off the board as early as the late-2nd round. I'll be passing on Mixon at that price and instead look for an alternative with much less risk, like Adam Thielen, T.Y. Hilton or Mike Evans.

Draft sleepers

Bilal Powell, RB, New York Jets
With both Isaiah Crowell and Elijah McGuire banged-up, Powell may finally get the opportunity to start a season with the lion's share of touches. He has always been productive when he's actually given the ball, so he could be a great value pick in the late rounds.

Michael Gallup, WR, Dallas Cowboys
Allen Hurns and Cole Beasley are not going to hold off this talented rookie for very long. He's the only receiver in Dallas with WR1 potential, and he'll prove that sooner rather than later.

Chris Godwin, WR, Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Don't let the depth chart fool you–Godwin is the receiver with breakout potential on the Bucs. He should pass DeSean Jackson in short order, and has WR3 potential in 2018.

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2016 NISSAN PATHFINDER AWD $69/Week

2016 NISSAN MAXIMA $69/Week

2013 INFINITI G37 AWD $63/Week

2014 KIA OPTIMA EXL TURBO $69/Week

2015 CHEVY IMPALA $51/Week

2017 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT $69/Week

2015 MERCEDES BENZ C300 $89/Week

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2017 CHEVY TAHOE LT $144/Week

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Sidney Jones looks to cement his spot as starting cornerback in Week 3 of the preseason against the Browns. GETTY IMAGES

3 things to watch as Eagles face Browns

The starters get one final tune-up, before the regular season opener against Atlanta.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
sports@metro.us

It has been a mostly lackluster and uninspiring preseason so far for the Eagles this year.

Other than Nate Sudfeld showing he has the potential to be a legitimate backup quarterback in the NFL, Shelton Gibson all but earning a roster spot with two big games at wide receiver, and second-round draft pick Dallas Goedert proving he is adept at catching touchdown passes, it's safe to erase the first two sloppy games against the Pittsburgh Steelers and New England Patriots from our collective memory.

However, we might actually learn what this team will look like when the calendar flips to September in Thursday's game against the Cleveland Browns. The starters should play at least the first half and possibly into the third quarter. Few, if any of them, will play in the final preseason game next week versus the New York Jets.

Since this is the one preseason game to truly focus on, here are three things to watch for:

1. DEPLETED OFFENSE

While it's the key game to watch to evaluate the starters on each side of the ball for an extended period of time, the Eagles offense will, unfortunately, look incomplete.

Due to either injuries or opting to rest veterans until the season opener, the Eagles are going to play without a bulk of their starters, which includes their top three running backs Jay Ajayi, Corey Clement, and Darren Sproles, No. 1 wide receiver Alshon Jeffrey, offensive lineman Jason Peters, and, of course, quarterback Carson Wentz.

Although the game won't provide a full picture, it still gives Nick Foles a chance to rebound from last week's subpar performance – and preseason debut – in New England. The reigning Super Bowl MVP completed 3-of-9 passes for 44 yards and was sacked three times before leaving the game with a shoulder sprain.

Look for offensive lineman Halapoulivaati Vaitai to try and bounce back from an awful night as well where he was continuously beaten by opposing defensive linemen.

2. SCARY DEFENSE

Through the first two games, the defense, especially the line, has been fun to watch. The unit wasn't crisp against Tom Brady and Co. but it still played well for a second straight week. The competition won't be as high against the woeful Browns, but with another strong showing, the starting defense can head into the regular season brimming full of confidence.

In addition to the defensive line, the slot cornerback and third linebacker position battles are still up for grabs and should be intriguing to watch unfold. Sidney Jones has the inside track on the cornerback job, but De'Vaunte Busby is making a strong case as well. At weakside linebacker, Nate Gerry and Kamu Grugier-Hill are neck-and-neck.

3. THE NEW HELMET RULE

The Eagles were flagged for three personal fouls for lowering their head and making contact with a ball carrier last week. They were also penalized twice against the Steelers in the preseason opener. It's a new rule the league has implemented this season to try to reduce concussions, and it has been heavily enforced in the preseason.

Players chirped this week that despite watching film and hearing from NFL officials on what is and is not a legal hit, they still are confused. For the starters, this is probably their last week to figure it out before those costly 15-yard penalties occur in a real game.

Ben Simmons on Sixers' goal next season: Beat the Boston Celtics

These two teams are expected to be the best in the East.

JOVAN ALFORD
jovan.alford@metro.us

Last season, the Sixers exceeded many analysts' expectations by not only winning 52 games and clinching the third seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs, but also winning a first-round playoff series against the Miami Heat.

Not to mention, second-year center Joel Embiid was named a starter in the NBA All-Star game and point guard Ben Simmons won the Rookie of the Year Award over the likes of Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell and Boston Celtics' standout Jayson Tatum.

It was a fun and magical ride, which ultimately came to an end, thanks to the Celtics, who defeated the Sixers in the Eastern Conference semifinals in five games. It was not your typical blowout five-game playoff series as the Sixers had multiple chances throughout to take control.

However, it was just not in the cards for the Sixers, who will get multiple chances to test their mettle against the Celtics next season. The two teams are expected to be the best in the East with LeBron James now in Los Angeles and one of them could represent the conference in the NBA Finals.

Simmons was in Melbourne, Australia, last week and spoke about many topics, including the Sixers' goals for the next season.

Ben Simmons is placing some lofty goals on the Sixers' shoulders next year. GETTY IMAGES

"We've got to get past Boston, those are the guys at the top right now. Beating them, that's our next goal," Simmons said to James Kern of NBA Australia. "Obviously getting further than the second round and winning the Eastern Conference Finals and then moving on to the Finals."

The 6-foot-10 point guard is right in his thinking. Even though the Sixers are being mentioned as one of the top teams in the East, the Celtics are the gold standard right now.

They boast a loaded roster with talented youngsters Jaylen Brown and Tatum and will be getting back a healthy Gordon Hayward and Kyrie Irving.

Then they still have veteran big man Al Horford, defensive-minded Marcus Smart, and backup point guard Terry Rozier. Boston has the pieces to compete and potentially win an NBA championship.

With that being said, the Sixers are not that far behind Boston. This was clear in the NBA playoffs, but also the regular season.

The Sixers played the Celtics tough in their four regular-season matchups and Simmons showed up too. He averaged 12.5 points, 6.5 rebounds, and 4.8 assists.

Outside of the team goals, Simmons also has his eyes on MVP, which is possible if the Sixers make a deep run in the NBA playoffs next season.

Last season, Simmons averaged 15.8 points, 8.2 assists and 8.1 rebounds in 33.7 minutes per game en route to winning Rookie of the Year. The former first overall pick has lofty goals for both himself and his team.

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Cocaine Research Study

Having problems related to your cocaine use?

Research studies at UPenn are trying to understand the brain's role in relapse.

Studies use brain imaging and may also test an investigational medication for preventing relapse.

Most imaging studies require an initial inpatient stay.

Compensation is provided.

For more information about participation in this research study, please call today:

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Perelman School of Medicine University of Pennsylvania

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Penn Medicine
DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY

is looking for volunteers for a research study comparing the effect of an FDA approved treatment for psoriasis, Otezla, on inflammation in the body and heart disease

Study participants will:

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- Be eligible for compensation per visit, up to $600, for time and travel costs
- Contribute to innovative psoriasis and heart disease research

ViP-A
Vascular Inflammation in Psoriasis Trial- Aprremilast

Contact us for more information:
(215) 662- SKIN
skinvip@upenn.edu

Living With Sickle Cell Disease?

If you have sickle cell disease, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study being conducted in our area. This clinical research study is designed to evaluate an investigational study medication for sickle cell crises associated with sickle cell disease.

You may be eligible if you are:

- between 16 and 70 years of age and
- have been diagnosed with sickle cell disease

Study participants will receive study-related medical care and study medications at no charge. Compensation may be offered for time and travel.

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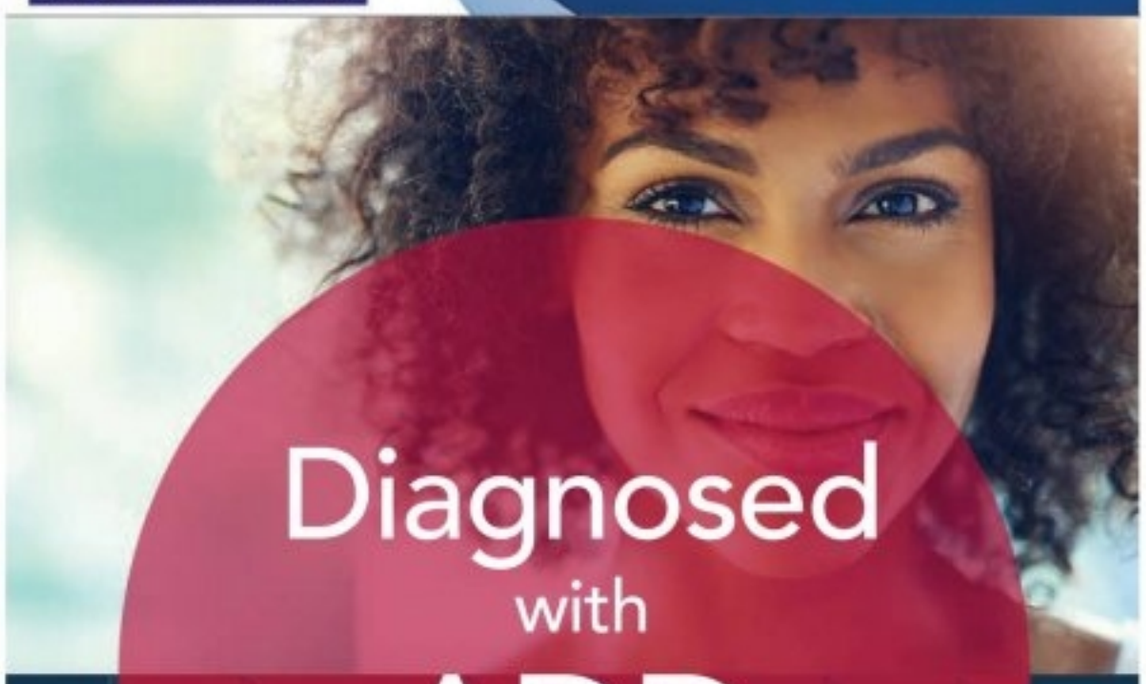

Diagnosed with ADD or ADHD?

Interested in participating in a research study?

Penn University of Pennsylvania

Please call **215-746-7281** or go to **www.think-add.com** to see if you qualify.

www.metro.us

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To find out how you can participate in research studies to help find ways to prevent HIV infection,
please contact us at (866)448-7366

Compensation for your time and travel will be provided
All information is confidential

Penn
University of Pennsylvania

Do you have high blood pressure?

The University of Pennsylvania Health System, Renal Medicine is conducting a research trial of the effects of an investigational procedure as a possible treatment for high blood pressure.

You may be eligible if you are:
- Between the ages of 20-80 years
- Have high blood pressure (top number 150-180)
- On or off medication for your blood pressure

This procedure is not for everyone and does carry some risks. Caution: Investigational device. Limited by federal law to investigational use

Please Contact Robin Neubauer, RN
For further information
Tel: 215.615.4886

Penn Medicine, Renal Hypertension

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TO SCHEDULE A PICK UP TODAY!

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CLASS DAYS & TIME: Monday - Friday • 8:30am - 2:45pm
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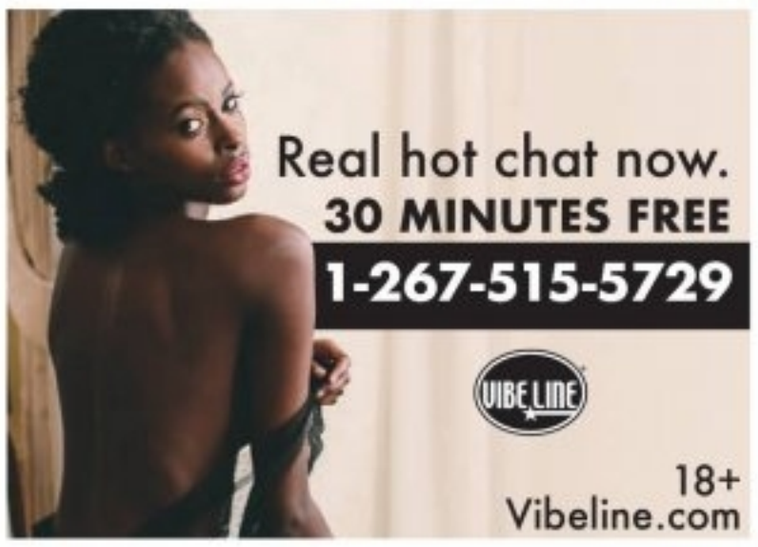

LEGAL NOTICES

Family Court For the State of Delaware Notice of Family Court Action

To: Unknown Father, Respondent

Petitioner: Theresa & Michael Santa Barbara has filed a Guardianship Petition against you in the Family Court of the State of Delaware for Sussex County on 05-30-2018. If you do not file an answer with the Family Court within 20 days after publication of this notice, exclusive of the date of publication, as required by statute, this action will be heard in Family Court without further notice. Petition # 18-01947.

If you wish to be represented by an attorney in this matter but cannot afford one, you may be entitled to have the court appoint an attorney to represent you for free. For more information, contact the clerk of the Court at Family Court.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School

Board of Trustees 2018-2019 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 5, 2018
Wednesday, October 3, 2018
Wednesday, November 7, 2018
Wednesday, December 5, 2018
Wednesday, February 6, 2019
Wednesday, March 6, 2019
Wednesday, April 3, 2019
Wednesday, May 1, 2019
Wednesday, June 5, 2019

All Meetings are held at 6 PM at 1840 Torresdale Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19124

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phillybiblestudy.org

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Vehicles Wanted

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w/ or w/out title
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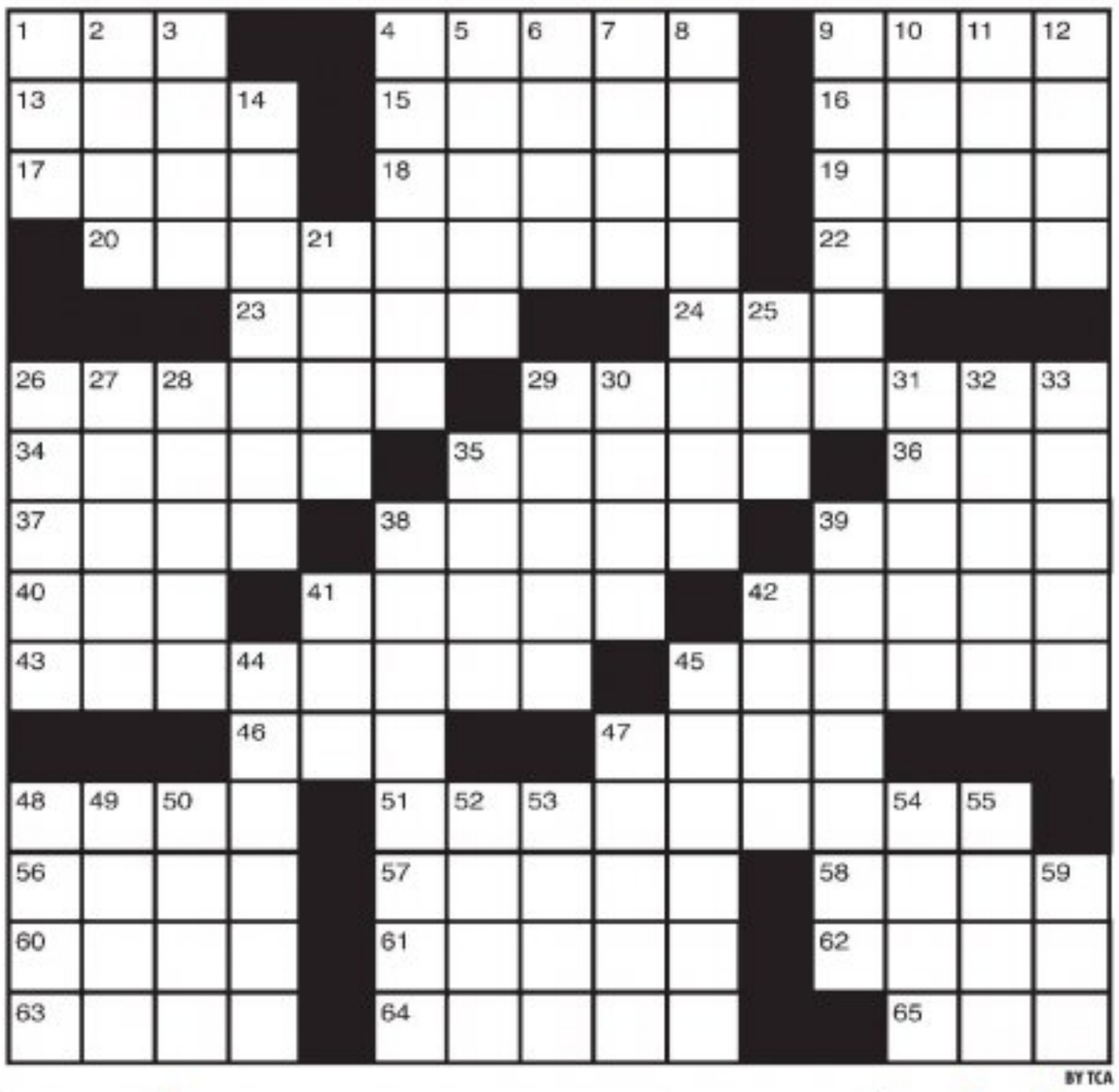

BY TCA

ACROSS

1 Actor Lowe
4 Marshland
9 Prefix for bishop or angel
13 Competes
15 Largest internal organ
16 Powerful wind
17 Strike with an open hand
18 Give one's views
19 Not quite closed
20 __ to the plate; took action
22 Easy to handle
23 Chronic breathing disorder
24 Hardwood tree
26 Unique thing
29 Military lodging quarters
34 Housetops
35 Sulks
36 Traitor
37 Mayberry resident
38 Vetoed
39 Alpha's follower
40 Piece of wood
41 High-ranking nobles
42 One who walks at water's edge
43 Not as wobbly
45 Remove from the throne
46 __ Plaines, Illinois
47 Creamy drink
48 Walk with heavy steps
51 Rising
56 Easy stride
57 Gets closer to
58 Inverness native
60 Think __; contemplate
61 Freight loaded
62 Not yours, his or hers
63 Strong urges
64 Corby or Pompeo
65 Black or Baltic

DOWN

1 Motor homes, for short
2 Gets rid of a squeak
3 Outscore
4 Unkempt
5 Dried with a towel
6 Enthusiastic
7 List of dishes
8 Ready
9 Writer __ Christie
10 Rani's husband
11 __ up; refuse to speak further
12 In this place
14 Name exactly
21 Cauldrons
25 12th-graders: abbr.
26 Graduate exams, often
27 "I __ like green eggs and ham..." (Seuss)
28 Manage to avoid
29 Ali or Tyson
30 Chimps and gibbons
31 Statement of religious beliefs
32 Middleton and Hudson
33 Gawk
35 Wallace of TV
38 Pain in the neck
39 Christening
41 Presidential initials
42 Actress Tuesday
44 Deadly vipers
45 Actor Ted __
47 Come together
48 Stratagem
49 Reason to wed
50 __ house; realtor's event
52 Barking marine mammal
53 Rob Reiner's dad
54 TV crime drama series
55 "__ with the Wind"
59 British custom

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R	O	B	I	N	A	T	L	U	S
H	G	G	P	J	V	I	E	D	E
A	S	M	A	I	L	L	I	W	N
B	P	F	B	I	Y	A	N	H	I
A	A	S	U	E	M	M	E	G	M
R	R	Z	K	O	J	P	G	W	S
G	R	N	N	I	D	D	A	L	A
A	O	D	H	W	Z	Y	Y	B	J
M	T	E	P	R	A	C	X	B	N
J	Q	N	T	S	W	V	P	F	I

Abu
Agrabah
Aladdin
Carpet
Diamond
Genie
Iago
Jafar
Jasmine
Lamp
Monkey
Parrot
Robin
Sultan
Williams

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Category: Phrase

A	E	R	F
R	M	O	G
T	M	I	N
O	S	L	I
E	A	R	

Trace a path, using every letter once, to find the hidden phrase. Your path can turn in any direction, but not diagonally.

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		9	6	3	8	4		1
6		1	7					
		8				7	6	
1		6	4		9			
7		2				9		6
			1		6	2		4
	9	5				1		
					1	5		3
3		4	8	5	2	6		

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Yesterday's Answers

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D	A	N	A	■	A	B	O	I	L	■	N	O	N	O
O	N	C	E	■	R	O	L	L	I	N	G	P	I	N
C	S	I	■	R	E	V	E	L	■	O	U	S	T	S
■	■	N	O	I	S	E	■	■	A	W	L	■	■	■
S	T	E	I	N	S	■	■	C	R	A	F	T	S	■
W	O	R	L	D	■	S	P	I	C	Y	■	R	U	B
A	W	A	Y	■	T	E	E	T	H	■	B	A	D	E
N	E	T	■	P	R	A	T	E	■	P	O	I	S	E
■	D	E	A	L	E	R	■	■	M	A	R	T	Y	R
■	■	■	R	U	E	■	■	D	I	N	G	O	■	■
C	H	A	R	M	■	T	H	O	S	E	■	R	I	G
R	E	C	E	P	T	I	O	N	S	■	S	O	L	E
A	R	T	S	■	A	R	G	U	E	■	H	U	L	L
B	E	S	T	■	N	E	S	T	S	■	E	S	S	■

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- **have previously had at least one bipolar manic or mixed episode (if you have bipolar I disorder), or hypomanic episode (if you have bipolar II disorder)**
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Center for Emotional Fitness - Cherry Hill, NJ

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